

The Great Debate

Grade Level(s): Eleventh and Twelfth Grades

Overview	This is a language lesson where students will form teams of 4 to debate the highly topical issue of online safety.
Objective	<p>With the multitude of social networking sites available online and the increasing concerns from parents regarding their use by teenagers students will attempt to widen their understanding of the positive and negative aspects of online communication.</p> <p>Teacher should assume that students already have an awareness of the misuse of the internet and without exposure to the negative impacts they may not feel directly affected. The purpose of this lesson is to highlight the concept that anyone is susceptible to being misled in a virtual environment.</p>
Standards	<p>11.7.16 Speaking Applications: Deliver reflective presentations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore the significance of personal experiences, events, conditions, or concerns, using appropriate speech strategies, including narration, description, exposition, and persuasion.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer with Internet access • 99Chats http://www.99chats.com/ • MSN • Facebook • Other chat sites • Safe chat rooms to be set up in advance by the teacher so each group has a chat room
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher should question the students on their current use of social networking sites with a particular focus on chat enabled sites. • Discuss and identify students use these sites and how often(5 min) • Teacher needs to show moderated examples of how they can be used inappropriately (eg an edited screenshot of 99Chats) • Set the activity – the teacher needs to inform students that they will work in groups of 4 (based on a class of 24) This will lead to 3 concurrent debates. 3 teams will focus on the positives of using chat tools and 3 teams will focus on the negatives of using chat tools. • The teacher will allow students 20 minutes for preparation time to structure their arguments • Each team will have 3 minutes to present their argument, during which time the teacher will have an overview of all teams • There will be a short period for questions before the class reforms and students vote on the appropriateness of using chat tools in a range of given situations: within school, under the age of 13, under the age of 16, while at home alone, if chatting to strangers.(5 min) • Total lesson time is approximately 45 min
Evaluation	The teacher should create a time with the class to discuss and reflect on what they have learned from the debate. An extension activity may include the development

	of a chat safety code for various age ranges.
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